



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**U.S. CHARGES FBI AGENT WITH FRAUD
AND FALSE STATEMENTS**

CATHY SEIBEL, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, GLENN A. FINE, Inspector General of the Department of Justice, and ROBERT S. MUELLER, III, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced charges against a FBI agent for fraud and false statements.

The Indictment charges RONALD LeBLANC with falsifying information on an application for a S-Visa, a visa for foreign nationals who are deemed essential to the investigation and prosecution of certain crimes. According to the Indictment, LeBLANC made false claims, included misleading information, and concealed material facts on an application to secure a S-Visa for a cooperating witness. Specifically, LeBLANC is alleged to have concealed the nature of his relationship with the witness, with whom he was personally involved, and to have made false assertions regarding the nature, substance, and value of the information she provided to law enforcement.

The Indictment charging LeBLANC was returned by a federal grand jury on December 15, 2005 and unsealed yesterday. LeBLANC was arraigned today before U.S. Magistrate Judge DEBRA FREEMAN. The case is assigned to U.S. District Judge RICHARD CASEY, and the next court appearance is January 4, 2006.

LeBLANC, 44, who resides in Dania Beach, FL, was put on administrative leave as of December 16, 2005. If convicted, LeBLANC faces a maximum sentence of 25 years' imprisonment.

Ms. SEIBEL thanked the FBI and the Office of the Inspector General for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

MARK J. MERSHON, Assistant Director-In-Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation offices in the greater New York area, stated: "The FBI has worked shoulder to shoulder with the Office of the Inspector General and the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Southern District of New York from the very beginning of this investigation. We fully support the investigative findings which led to this Federal Grand Jury indictment. That an FBI Special Agent is the defendant in this case is deeply disturbing, particularly to the thousands of men and women of the FBI who are dedicated to upholding the law, pursuing justice and exemplifying the FBI creed of 'Fidelity, Bravery and Integrity.' The FBI has an unwavering commitment to address criminal conduct, regardless of where it may lead."

Assistant United States Attorney JACOB BUCHDAHL is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the indictment are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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